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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/24): PALESTINIANS CALL FOR  
GREATER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL REGARDING SETTLEMENTS

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Main Stories:  
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Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam front page news that Secretary Clinton will announce a \$200 million cash transfer to the Palestinian Authority (PA) based on pledges made at the Sharm Al-Sheikh donors' conference. The coverage reports that Secretary Clinton will announce the cash transfer via videoconference link from Washington on July 24 in conjunction with PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and Al-Ayyam front page news on Special Envoy George Mitchell's visit to Syria. Coverage notes State Department Spokesperson P.J. Crowley's statements that the visit will help the US assess the prospects for achieving peace with Israel and to see if Syria is ready to help lead the peace process in the region.

Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida lead with news that the Israeli government transferred property in the Al-Bustan neighborhood in East Jerusalem to the "extremist Jewish movement" ElAd Groupin. The report highlights the Israeli government's intentions to evacuate the neighborhood of Arab residents and construct a public park and housing units under Jewish Israeli ownership.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs front page coverage on Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu calling for a "very warm peace with the Arab states" during a statement he made at the house of the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel on July 23. Netanyahu noted that he hopes to have peace with the Palestinians, but did not mention the cessation of settlement activities. In related news, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages PA Spokesperson Abu Rudeina's comments on Netanyahu's speech, saying that "what we need now is to translate words into actions, halt the settlement activities, especially in East Jerusalem, and accept the two state solution without any preconditions."

Al-Ayyam runs front page coverage citing DPA on PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat denying news that the PA requested to meet with Israeli officials to pursue peace talks. Erekat is quoted saying "the Palestinians will not have any meetings with Israel unless the Israeli Prime Minister clearly recognizes the two state solution and stops all settlement activity, including natural growth."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's front page and Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam inside pages report on US Consul General Jake Wallles's July 23 visit to Hebron to meet with local officials and entrepreneurs.

Al-Ayyam front pages news citing DPA that Senior Fatah leader Nabil Sha'ath called for an end to the internal division and called on Fatah and Hamas to engage in a real reconciliation dialogue. Sha'ath stated that failure to do so will lead to the continued deterioration of the situation in Gaza and the Palestinian cause as a whole, and will justify Israel's continued violations.

All dailies front page news on the head of the Fatah's parliamentary block, Azzam Al-Ahmad, noting on July 23 that recently released Hamas Palestinian Liberation Council (PLC) member Dr. Aziz Dweik cannot resume his duties as the head of the PLC as he was not elected by the PLC members for a second term.

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BLOCK QUOTES:  
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1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "Who is responsible for freezing the peace process?" (07/24): "The

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Palestinians are not the obstacle to peace. On the contrary, they consider peace a strategic choice. They are not the ones who hinder the peace process, it is the Israelis who continuously create excuses to delay the peace process and suspend negotiations. Now we have Netanyahu who laid out many unrealistic preconditions to re-launching peace talks, which proves that he and his government are not serious about peace!"

2) Samih Shbeib opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title "The Settlements and the US Stance" (07/24): "If the US position on settlements remains the same without any real pressure on Israel to halt settlements...then the US administration under Obama will lose its credibility and will be exactly like the previous administrations, and this will deepen the gap between the US and the Muslim world again".

WALLES